

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)**  
**DETERMINING POTENTIAL ELIGIBILITY AND RANKING CRITERIA**  
**Irrigation Water Conservation**

The following guide is provided for determining those applications having potential to earn environmental points for irrigation water conservation practices in Oklahoma. These criteria are applicable to applications outside the High Plains Aquifer region of Oklahoma, and will be used by USDA personnel in evaluating the resource issues being considered in fiscal year 2004 and where appropriate to aid clients in determining whether their particular resource concern(s) would receive ranking points in this year's evaluation. **Maintain this record with the CCC-1200 and 1201 for documentation of the environmental benefit.**

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Tracts: \_\_\_\_\_

Assisted By: \_\_\_\_\_ Assisting Agency: NRCS

| <p>Primary Resource Concern – Water Conservation (Water Quantity)</p> <p>Pursuant to EQIP rules, cost share and incentive payments for irrigation water conservation measures must provide a net savings in irrigation water resources in the agriculture operation of the producer.</p> <p>The following two bullets must be met before environmental points can be assigned to an application for irrigation water conservation measures. Otherwise, score zero environmental points and do not rank for water conservation funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be eligible for irrigation related conservation practices, the land must have been irrigated two of the five years previous to application for cost-share assistance. Previously non-irrigated acres are eligible to be irrigated only if they are incidental to the water conservation benefits of the larger irrigated field.</li> <li>The operating unit must currently, or be planned to, meet the NRCS Irrigation Water Management standard and specification (449) during the EQIP contract period.</li> </ul> |                             |                         |            |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| SCORING CRITERIA  |                             |                         | Score      |
| 1) Currently irrigated land will be taken out of irrigation (includes pivot corners)  |                             | 40 points X ____ Acres  |            |
| 2) Currently non-irrigated land will be brought under a new irrigation system.  |                             | -20 points X ____ Acres | -          |
| 3) Plan includes conversion of the existing <u>surface</u> irrigation system to: (points x system acres)  |                             |                         | Score      |
| SDI (Sub-Surface Drip Irrigation)   |                             | 10 points               |            |
| LEPA Center Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System  |                             | 10 points               |            |
| LESA Center Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System  |                             | 8 points                |            |
| LPIC Center Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System  |                             | 6 points                |            |
| MESA Center Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System  |                             | 4 points                |            |
| 4) Plan includes conversion of the existing <u>sprinkler</u> irrigation system to: (points x system acres)  |                             |                         | Score      |
| SDI (Sub-Surface Drip Irrigation)   |                             | 7 points                |            |
| LEPA Center Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System  |                             | 7 points                |            |
| LESA Center Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System  |                             | 5 points                |            |
| LPIC Center Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System  |                             | 3 points                |            |
| MESA Center Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System  |                             | 1 point                 |            |
| 5) Plan includes measures to increase the efficiency of the irrigation system (include all that apply).   |                             |                         | Score      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Furrow Diking? Yes ____ No ____  | If yes, score an additional |                         | 100 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Row pattern planting under sprinkler? Yes ____ No ____   | If yes, score an additional |                         | 100 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In-row Chiseling? Yes ____ No ____   | If yes, score an additional |                         | 100 points |

(MORE)

|   |                     |   |
|---|---------------------|---|
| 6) Measures protecting water quality, groundwater and surface water protection, will be installed.  |                     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Well Decommissioning - irrigation well   | 500 points per well |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Well Decommissioning - livestock or domestic   | 300 points per well |   |
| 7) The Irrigation Water Management (IWM) Plan includes provisions for any or all of the following? IWM will be practiced and maintained for a five-year minimum on all irrigated land scored in items 3 and 4. (include all that apply).  |                     | Score   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continuous Flow Measurement & Monitoring? Yes ____ No ____ If yes, score an additional   |                     | 200 points  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Scheduling, Record Keeping, & <u>Monthly</u> Soil Moisture Monitoring? Yes ____ No ____   |                     |   |
|   |                     | If yes, score an additional 100 points                  |
| 8) Planned treatment includes the adoption of conservation tillage practices, on <b>all</b> cultivated land under contract (All cropland scored in items 1, 3, and 4), in addition to irrigation system conversions or modifications. Conservation tillage will be practiced and maintained for a five-year minimum. (If in no-till/mulch till rotation, score the lowest residue category for the contract.) |                     | Score   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Till Yes ____ No ____ If yes, score an additional   |                     | 500 points  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mulch Till Yes ____ No ____ If yes, score an additional  |                     | 250 points  |
| 9) Planned treatment includes conversion of irrigated cropland to non-irrigated permanent vegetation (includes pivot corners).  |                     | Score   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native grasses (Range Seeding) Yes ____ No ____ If yes, score 10 X ____ Acres  |                     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Introduced grass (Pasture Planting) Yes ____ No ____ If yes, score 2 X ____ Acres  |                     |   |
| 10) Planned treatment includes the establishment of a new conservation buffer. Yes ____ No ____   |                     | Score   |
|   |                     | If Yes, score an additional 50 points/buffer practice   |
| Will buffer provide protection to all wellheads on the contract acres? Wellhead buffer must meet the minimum criteria in Filter strip (393) standard with minimum width as described in table 4.  |                     |   |
|   |                     | If Yes, score another 50 points for wellhead protection |
| 11) Planned treatment includes the adoption of the nutrient management practice, on <b>all</b> cultivated land under contract, in addition to irrigation system conversions or modifications. Nutrient management and record keeping will be practiced and maintained for a five-year minimum. Yes ____ No ____ If Yes, score 100 points  |                     | Score   |
| 12) Economic Criteria (combined cost of treatment per acre). Includes the total estimated cost share and incentive payments required to implement <b>ALL</b> planned practices divided by the total offered acres.  |                     | Score   |
| \$50 or less per acre   |                     | 60 points   |
| \$50 to \$100 per acre  |                     | 40 points   |
| \$100 to \$200 per acre   |                     | 20 points   |
| \$200 to \$300 per acre   |                     | 10 points   |
| More than \$300 per acre  |                     | 0 points  |

Subtotal Score: **a)**

Enter total number of pivot points and subsurface drip filter stations to be completed under contract: **b)**

Divide subtotal (a) by number of systems (b) = **SCORE:**

Signature of Applicant

Date